

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS – DROUGHT

FACT SHEET #4, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2013

SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

15

Drought-Affected Atolls and Islands in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI)
Government of RMI (GoRMI) – May 2013

6,384

Drought-Affected People in Atolls and Islands Targeted by USAID/OFDA¹ Assistance
GoRMI – May 2013

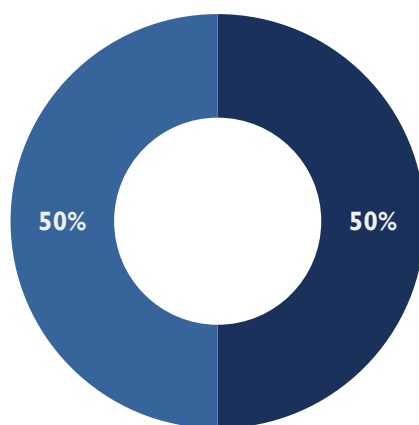
1,200

Islands, Islets, and Atolls that Compose RMI
U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – May 2013

53,158

Total Population of RMI
GoRMI – 2011

USAID/OFDA FUNDING BY SECTOR IN FY 2013



■ Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (50%)

■ Logistics & Relief Commodities (50%)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Affected populations continue to recover from drought effects as normal seasonal rainfall remains ongoing
- USAID partner the International Organization for Migration (IOM) continues to deliver food commodities provided by the U.S. Government (USG) to drought-affected atolls and islands

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO RMI IN FY 2013

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| USAID/OFDA ² | \$3,104,796 |
| USDA/FNS ³ | \$1,386,847 |

\$4,491,643

TOTAL USG ASSISTANCE TO RMI

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On September 19, a 30-day shipment of USDA/FNS-procured food commodities arrived in Majuro, RMI's capital, by boat. To date, USDA/FNS has provided more than 367 metric tons (MT) of food commodities to assist populations residing in drought-affected atolls of RMI. IOM continues to transport USDA/FNS-provided food commodities to affected atolls and islands via chartered boat on a monthly basis.
- IOM has contracted a plane to support IOM and humanitarian partner operations in RMI, including the transport of survey teams and reverse osmosis technicians. As of September 13, the air bridge had completed 34 flights to eight drought-affected atolls and islands.
- The Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian WASH activities in RMI—is currently conducting a household survey covering existing water supply, water harvesting methods and systems, and water use in all drought-affected atolls and islands. WASH Cluster members, including IOM and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), in coordination with the GoRMI, trained and deployed local teams to conduct the survey.

¹ USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

² Under the Compact of Free Association (COFA) between the USG and the GoRMI, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides funds to USAID/OFDA to implement humanitarian response programs in coordination with FEMA and the GoRMI. This funding figure does not include the cost of USAID/OFDA pre-positioned relief commodities distributed in response to RMI drought conditions.

³ The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (USDA/FNS)

CURRENT SITUATION

WASH

- As of September 13, the WASH survey teams—which began assessments on August 23—had assessed conditions and obtained data from eight affected atolls and islands, with survey activities ongoing in the remaining affected areas, according to IOM. Several GoRMI authorities are participating in the assessment.
- In coordination with the Majuro Water and Sewer Company (MWSC), IOM continues to provide technical support and assistance with monitoring, extraction, and on-site storage of reverse osmosis purification units (ROPUs) in outer atolls.

Emergency Food Assistance

- With food assistance provided by USDA/FNS, IOM is reaching 944 households residing in 13 drought-affected atolls and islands. Local governments, with support from local non-governmental organization Women United Together Marshall Islands, are managing the onward delivery of food supplies to beneficiaries. IOM has chartered a boat to conduct the food deliveries.

GoRMI RESPONSE

- The GoRMI Emergency Operations Center continues to convene cluster and inter-cluster meetings to coordinate response efforts. Several humanitarian organizations, including USAID partner IOM, continue to participate in cluster meetings.
- The MWSC and the GoRMI Environment Protection Authority are providing technical support for drought response water interventions and guidance on water quality sampling and testing to humanitarian actors responding to humanitarian needs resulting from the drought, according to IOM.

USG RESPONSE

- USAID/OFDA, using funding from FEMA, provided approximately \$3 million to IOM in FY 2013 to conduct drought response activities, including the transport of humanitarian personnel and USAID/OFDA-provided emergency relief commodities to affected areas and support for the emergency distribution of food and safe drinking water to drought-affected populations. In addition, USAID/OFDA supported IOM's distribution of medicine to affected communities.
- USDA/FNS has procured and delivered food commodities to Majuro for the July, August, and September food distributions. Under the COFA, USDA/FNS is providing supplemental food assistance for an initial period of six months to disaster-affected populations in response to the U.S. presidential disaster declaration. IOM is transporting the USDA/FNS-provided food commodities from Majuro to affected atolls.
- In FY 2013, USAID/OFDA donated 12 ROPUs to the GoRMI to increase water availability in drought-affected areas of northern RMI. In addition, USAID/OFDA loaned the GoRMI an additional eight units to enhance drought response efforts.

OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- As of September 4, IFRC's Emergency Appeal of approximately \$861,000 was funded at approximately 40 percent. IFRC is currently prioritizing the needs of approximately 1,530 beneficiaries residing in Likiep and Namu atolls and Mejit Island, with plans to address the humanitarian needs of an additional 1,880 people in Ailuk, Maloelap, and Wotje atolls if funding is available.
- IFRC is building local capacity and helping communities recover from drought effects by working with local volunteers across three atolls to repair and improve household and community rainwater harvesting systems.

CONTEXT

- In November 2008, USAID assumed responsibility for disaster response and reconstruction in RMI and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) from FEMA, reflecting the transition of FSM and RMI from U.S.-administered trust territories to independent countries. USAID and FEMA developed an Operational Blueprint to provide a framework for USG disaster response and reconstruction in the two nations, under which USAID maintains FEMA's previous commitment to supplement host government efforts as necessary to provide humanitarian assistance in the aftermath of significant disasters. USAID/OFDA collaborates closely with FEMA, as well as with USAID/Philippines and USAID's Bureau for Asia, to implement programs in FSM and RMI.
- USAID also maintains a full-time presence in FSM and RMI through a Disaster Assistance Coordinator (DAC). Located in Majuro and working as a member of the U.S. Embassy country teams in FSM and RMI, the DAC serves as a liaison to host governments and coordinates USG relief activities in FSM and RMI. USAID recently established a position for a Reconstruction Assistance Coordinator based at USAID/Philippines, who helps USAID fulfill the reconstruction component of its mandate as specified in the Operational Blueprint.
- As early as January, drier-than-normal weather conditions began affecting several atolls and islands in northern RMI, where the majority of freshwater supplies depend on rainfall for replenishment. On May 3, U.S. Ambassador Thomas Hart Armbruster declared a disaster due to humanitarian needs resulting from the drought. In May, the USG conduct a preliminary damage assessment at the request of the GoRMI. On June 14, U.S. President Barack Obama declared a disaster for RMI under the COFA between the USG and the GoRMI, authorizing the release of federal funding for emergency relief and reconstruction assistance. In response, USAID/OFDA deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to RMI between June 28 and July 19 and activated a corresponding D.C.-based Response Management Team (RMT) between July 1 and 19.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO RMI PROVIDED IN FY 2013¹

| IMPLEMENTING PARTNER | ACTIVITY | LOCATION | AMOUNT |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| USAID/OFDA² | | | |
| IOM | Logistics and Relief Commodities; WASH | Affected Areas | \$2,870,000 |
| | Staff Travel and Administrative Costs | | \$234,796 |
| TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE | | | \$3,104,796 |
| USDA/FNS³ | | | |
| IOM | 367 MT of Food Assistance | Affected Areas | \$1,261,271 |
| | Transportation Costs | | \$125,576 |
| TOTAL USDA/FNS ASSISTANCE | | | \$1,386,847 |
| TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO RMI IN FY 2013 | | | \$4,491,643 |

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

² USAID/OFDA funding represents actual or obligated amounts as of September 30, 2013.

³ USDA/FNS funding represents actual or obligated amounts as of September 30, 2013.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at www.interaction.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or +1.202.821.1999.
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at
<http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>